

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
December 2, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
TOWN OF VIRGINIA CITY, MONTANA
Elks Lodge & Zoom Meeting

Council Present: Justin Gatewood (via Zoom), Dave Bacon, Kacey Smart, Jon Osborn

Staff Present: Timber Baceski Clerk/Treasurer, Robert Erdall PWO, Eric Barsness HPO

Public Present: Toni James, Scott Petersen, Tanya Engle, Ruth Hauri, Ken Shields, Laurie Hansen (via Zoom)

1) Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Dave Bacon, Councilmember

2) Mayor and Commissioner's Reports/Comments:

- a) Jon Osborn sat in on the County Commissioner interviews and met our new Commissioner, John Heckler.
- b) There will be another Pharm406 vaccination clinic on December 11th from 10-3 by the community center. They will also be in Ennis on December 11th from 1-4 and Sheridan on the December 12th from 10-3.
- c) The Chamber of Commerce and the Elk's Lodge are hosting the Christmas Stroll on December 11th. Vendors will be set up at both the community center and the Elk's Lodge.
- d) Virginia City Ice (VICE) will be hosting the annual Skate with Santa at the skating rink on December 19th, if ice can be built by then.

3) Public Comment:

- a) Toni James noted that there is still bunting on display in town, specifically at the Montana Picture Gallery and Calamity Janes. By ordinance, bunting can be displayed for two weeks, but it has been up since early summer. The Town will contact the businesses in violation to resolve this issue.
- b) Tanya Engle mentioned that the Christmas Stroll has been capped at 20 vendors. It will begin at noon and end at 8:00pm.

4) Clerk's Report:

None.

5) HPO Report:

HPO Eric Barsness has been organizing the office.

6) HPAC Report:

- a) The HPAC Board has discussed reworking the 2014 Design Guidelines. Eric Barsness has created a quick guide for new residents that outlines what the first steps are after buying lots/homes in Town.
- b) Lance Otto has presented the design guidelines for Virginia City, Nevada to the board to use for reference.

7) New Business:

Hauri Development Permit Application

The garage door would be rosewood with windows, as shown in the submitted design. The door could have angled cuts to fit the carport opening, or it could be squared.

MOTION: To approve the Development Permit for Ruth Hauri's garage door. Motion made by Dave Bacon; Seconded by Jon Osborn. **The question was called.** **The motion passed by voice vote, Dave Bacon, Justin Gatewood, Jon Osborn, and Kacey Smart in favor. None opposed.**

8) Old Business:

a) Davidson Site/Zoning Permit Application

- i) Mayor Gatewood noted that this permit application has been a good learning experience for the whole staff, as the project has many layers to it. At the November council meeting, the Council agreed that more clarity on septic and access to roads was needed, so the permit application was tabled. The missing components have since been taken care of, and it has gone before the Public Works Board, as well as the HPAC Board. The Council now has a complete site/zoning permit application for this project.
- ii) There was a Public Works Meeting on the 1st of December. The Board visited the property and confirmed that the plans upheld the Town's standards for roads and proper drainage. They also confirmed that a fire truck would be able to access the location with the given design plans.
- iii) The clerk will check with the County to ensure the deed specifies that lots 5-8 are approved and dedicated to this project, so that they cannot be sold individually. The Town may have Kristin Davidson sign an easement to permanently dedicate those four lots to the septic system.

MOTION: To approve the Site/Zoning Permit for Kristin Davidson, complete with the Septic Variance, with the provision that the Town is given the deed or some other document that shows allocation of the 4 lots to the septic. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by Dave Bacon. **The question was called.** **The motion passed by voice vote, Dave Bacon, Justin Gatewood, Jon Osborn, and Kacey Smart in favor. None opposed.**

9) Public Works Report:

New tires and chains have been purchased for the skidsteer. T&E is scheduled to do maintenance on the skidsteer to prepare for winter. Most culverts have been cleaned out, and the skating rink project is still underway.

10) Consent Agenda

a) Minutes from November 4, 2021

MOTION: To approve the Minutes from November 4, 2021. Motion made by Dave Bacon; Seconded by Kacey Smart. **The question was called. The motion passed by voice vote, Dave Bacon, Justin Gatewood, Jon Osborn, and Kacey Smart in favor. None opposed.**

b) Accounts Payable, Receivable, Adjustments, & Checks November 2021

MOTION: To approve the Accounts Payable, Receivable, Adjustments and Checks for November 2021. Motion made by Dave Bacon; Seconded by Jon Osborn. **The question was called. The motion passed by voice vote, Dave Bacon, Justin Gatewood, Jon Osborn, and Kacey Smart in favor. None opposed.**

11) Public Comment:

- a) Mayor Gatewood noted that Timber, the Clerk, has been handling delinquencies in water/sewer and Resort Tax, as well as preparing the final report for the Montana Tourism Grant.
- b) Mayor Gatewood has set up an ARPA briefing with the Department of Commerce, which will take place in the next week. Members of the Council are welcome to join; Dan McCauley and Matt Mudd of Great West Engineering will be in attendance. The meeting is scheduled for December 7th from 2:30-3:30pm. The Department of Commerce will review our application and guide us on what can be improved.
- c) Mayor Gatewood mentioned the failure at Hebgen Dam and noted that we need to be far more cognizant about what Northwestern Energy is doing in regards to licensing and certification. The malfunction at the dam could've killed the Madison River. It was repaired in 48 hours, but still thousands of juvenile and adult trout were killed.
- d) Toni James asked where the funds were coming from for the Warming Hut project at the skating rink. Mayor Gatewood explained that Virginia City Ice (VICE) is buying material and handling the majority of funding. Councilmember Jon Osborn has volunteered some time and labor. The Town has volunteered some of PWO Erdall's time as well, with those funds coming from the Parks section of the budget.

12) Adjournment:

MOTION: To Adjourn. Motion made by Dave Bacon; Seconded by Jon Osborn. **The question was called: Motion was passed by voice vote, all in favor. None opposed.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm

Respectfully submitted and attested,

Justin Gatewood
Mayor

Timber Baceski
Clerk Treasurer